

Claims

1. A purified polypeptide comprising an epitope of an antigenic polypeptide of FIV.

5 2. The purified polypeptide of claim 1, said peptide comprising an epitope of a gag or env polypeptide of FIV.

10 3. The purified polypeptide of claim 2 wherein said polypeptide comprises a polypeptide having at least 75% homology to said gag or env polypeptide.

15 4. The purified polypeptide of claim 3 wherein said polypeptide comprises a gag or env polypeptide of FIV.

20 5. The purified polypeptide of claim 2, 3, or 4 wherein said polypeptide is p10, p15, or p26.

25 6. The purified polypeptide of claim 2, 3 or 4 wherein said polypeptide is gp40, gp100, or gp130.

7. A method for detecting antibody to FIV comprising providing purified polypeptide comprising an epitope of an antigenic polypeptide of FIV, contacting said purified polypeptide with a sample comprising said antibody, and detecting the presence of a complex formed between said polypeptide and said antibody.

30 8. A purified nucleic acid comprising a 50 nucleotide sequence having at least 90% homology with a 50 nucleotide sequence naturally occurring in an FIV particle.

9. The nucleic acid of claim 8, said nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an epitope of an antigenic polypeptide of FIV.

5 10. The nucleic acid of claim 9, said polypeptide comprising an epitope of a gag or env polypeptide of FIV.

10 11. The nucleic acid of claim 8 carried in an expression vector.

15 12. A method for inducing immunity to FIV-caused disease symptoms in a cat, comprising the step of inoculating the cat with a polypeptide of claim 1.

20 13. A purified polypeptide comprising ten or more contiguous amino acids taken from the sequence V-Q-S-R-G-S-G-P-V-C-F-N-C-K-K-P-G-H-L-A-R-Q-S-H or P-I-Q-T-V-N-G-V-P-Q-Y-V-A-L-D-P-K-M-V-S or S-V-Q-S-R-G-Q-G-P-V-A-F-N.